

**Board of Selectmen
January 27, 2010**

Present: Kenneth S. Paul, Vice-Chairperson; John J. Blackwood; Robin L. Frost, Town Administrator; and Toni Bodah, Secretary.

The posted meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mr. Paul, who then led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those also present included: Dick & Margaret Wessell; Dave Mankus; Steve Brown; Relf Fogg; Jerry O'Connor; and Nick Scala. John Fournier joined the meeting in progress.

1. Appointments – None scheduled.

2. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #1

--Mr. Mankus referred to the railroad crossing on Acton Ridge Road, noting that one of the rails sits about 1 ½" above the roadbed. He believes this situation could be dangerous, especially for motorcycles, and wonders whether a letter could be sent to NH Northcoast. Mr. Paul stated that the Road Agent would be directed to review the situation.

--Mr. O'Connor referred to the recent reception held for Henry Blanton in honor of his retirement. The reception was held at the public safety building and was well-attended.

3. Unfinished Business

a) Pending Projects Spreadsheet

--Canal Road Bridge: No new information; request for State bridge aid recently submitted.

--Town Hall Renovations: A letter has been sent to Meridian granting an extension of the project to May 1, 2010.

--Transfer Station Design: The wall construction is back on track

--WWTF Gate: Although the gate is operational, it still requires some repair.

4. New Business

a) Transfer Station – Commercial Haulers – Mr. Blackwood noted that most businesses utilize a dumpster. He added that, with the new compactor, it would likely be a good idea to require private businesses to have their own dumpsters. Mr. Blackwood referred to Mr. Mankus, as owner of a campground, and Jim Keating, owner of the Poor People's Pub, as examples of those who could be required to utilize a dumpster. Mr. Paul agreed that usually commercial restaurants have their own dumpsters, while the campsites generally haul their material to the Transfer Station. He noted the eventual removal of plastics from the MSW may help this situation and suggested that all involved be invited in to discuss the issue. Mr. Blackwood stated the issue involves backing in (to the compactor) with trucks during high-traffic periods.

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The TS manager had considered housing a dumpster out back for commercial use; however, it would be difficult to monitor. Mr. Paul suggested we obtain a list of commercial haulers from the manager and go from there.

Mr. Mankus noted that he is the single largest taxpayer in Wakefield, and added that the only service he gets from the Town is use of the Transfer Station. He stated that he does have a large truck, but he uses it to separate recyclables. Mr. Mankus stressed that many of his people pay taxes (citing some examples of the amounts paid) although they are only here 4 months out of the year. When the services of the ambulance are used, they are paid for separately. As taxpayers, those people are eligible to purchase their own Transfer Station stickers. Mr. Mankus noted that dumpsters are dirty and attract animals. With the existing auger, he is able to back up out of the way to unload the truck. However, the way the new compactor is laid out, it does not allow for unloading off the back. Mr. Mankus suggested the original compactor be kept as is so that trucks can back in, and added that it should not go out of service in case something happens to the new compactor. He stated that you should not change a system that works, and added that he should not have to pay for a dumpster.

Mr. Paul advised the Board will obtain a list of commercial haulers and invite everyone in for a discussion. Mr. Blackwood asked whether Mr. Mankus charges his campers for trash pickup. Mr. Mankus advised he does not charge for that service. Ms. Frost noted that the existing auger will not be taken out of service. Mr. Paul agreed, noting that it will require some maintenance, following which it will be used for plastics and as back-up. Mr. Paul noted that residents on private roads receive the same services as everyone else.

A brief discussion followed regarding a fire some years ago in the area of Mr. Mankus' campground. Mr. Mankus had billed the Town for use of his pond in an effort to remind the Town that if it must utilize private property, the owner must be compensated.

b) Deliberative Session Assignments – The Board reviewed the list of warrant articles and assigned speaking responsibilities for each.

5. Correspondence

6. Unscheduled Matters/Public Comment #2

--Mr. Paul announced that the Platt Family has donated a US flag to the Town. The flag had been flown over the US Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan on July 4, 2009 in honor of Ronalds Platt, Jr., a local veteran who had passed away on April 10, 2009. Mr. Paul read aloud a statement from the Platt Family (attached hereto). Mr. Paul stated the Board should consider where to display the flag, noting that it will last longer if used inside. Perhaps it could be displayed outside on Pride Day.

Mr. Fogg suggested it might be appropriate to use in Opera House for this Saturday's Deliberative Session. All agreed. Mr. Mankus noted that Mrs. Platt was agreeable to utilizing the flag at a Town cemetery. Ms. Frost noted that the flag must be illuminated or it would need to be taken down each evening. Mr. Paul noted that the Eagle Scout project includes use of a solar light for its flag.

--Mr. Wessell asked about the fire today out on Route 16. He was advised it involved several of the storage units located south of NAPA.

--Mr. Fogg stated he has reviewed the warrant articles, noting that #19 does a good job of addressing the franchise fees and revolving fund for the PEG Channel. However, he believed as a result of the December 23 Selectmen's meeting that the Selectmen planned to include a warrant article for funding in the near term. Mr. Fogg is seeking guidance as to how to address this at Deliberative Session, if possible. It cannot be included as a warrant article at this point. Increasing the Operating Budget would not address this as the only account in the general budget for the PEG channel is a wage line. Ms. Frost advised Mr. Fogg that if the warrant article establishing the revolving funds passes, then any private donations received can be placed directly into that fund. Mr. Paul questioned when franchise fees are expected to be put in place. Mr. Fogg advised they will review the proposed contract on February 4. Ms. Frost confirmed that the cost to review that contract by an attorney could be covered under the general legal line.

7. Administrative Matters

a) Liaison Reports – Mr. Blackwood: All is quiet!

Mr. Paul: WPI is still looking at an OEP grant regarding energy efficiency. ZBA granted a variance for property on North Desmond Drive. AWWA delivered a presentation this past Saturday in the Opera House regarding the project on the Salmon Falls headwaters.

b) Selectmen's Letter of Appreciation – The Board agreed to send this month's letter to AWWA.

c) Administrator's Update

--Although we will have our regular household hazardous waste collection day in the spring, the City of Rochester has asked whether the Town might also be interested in a fall collection day. We have said yes! Although plans are not definite, the event would likely occur in September.

--The IRS has reduced its mileage rate to \$0.50/mile. The Town's current reimbursement rate is \$0.52. **Mr. Paul moved to reduce the mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.50 per mile, effective as of February 1, 2010.**

--The Town Administrator will be out of the office on Thursday, January 28.

d) Minutes – Mr. Paul moved to accept the minutes of January 13, 2010, as presented. Mr. Blackwood seconded the motion, which passed 2-0.

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e) Non Public Session – Mr. Paul moved to enter Non Public Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Mr. Blackwood seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mr. Blackwood – ‘aye’; Mr. Paul – ‘aye’. The motion passed 2-0, and the Board entered Non Public Session at 7:42 p.m.

The Board returned to public session at 7:44 p.m., at which time the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Toni Bodah, Secretary

Approval of Minutes:

Mark P. Duffy, Chairperson

Kenneth S. Paul

John J. Blackwood